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L'Eritrea Economica. Conferenze di Ferdinando Martini, O. Marinelli and others. xiv and 542 pp. Maps, ills. Biblioteca Geogr. dell'Inst. Geogr. de Agostini, No. 1. Novara-Roma, 1913. L. 16. 10 x 7.

Fifteen specialists have contributed as many chapters (originally prepared as lectures), each dealing chiefly with the more important economic problems pertaining to the region. The book is therefore particularly free from weak parts which are often noticeable whenever a single author attempts to prepare a compilation of this nature. Its only defect lies in the lack of a recapitulation in which résumés of each chapter should have been correlated in a comprehensive survey. This task is left to the reader.

Promise of future Eritrean prosperity in agriculture and stock-raising is revealed. Indications of mineral wealth are likewise recorded. There is some tendency towards exaggerated optimism but, on the whole, the chapters are characterized by great accuracy of data. The book is the first of a series which bids fair to be valuable. The publishers have given proof in recent years of the excellence of their geographical publications. LEON DOMINIAN.

Vom Kongo zum Niger und Nil. Berichte der deutschen Zentralafrika-Expedition 1910-1911. Von Adolf Friedrich Herzog zu Mecklenburg. Vol. 1: x and 324 pp. Vol. 2: x and 398 pp. Maps, ills., index. F. A. Brockhaus, Leipzig, 1912. Mk. 20. 9½ x 6½ each.

This second expedition to Central Africa by the Duke of Mecklenburg has thrown light on some of the darkest parts of the continent. Although the original project of crossing the whole width of the continent could not be carried out owing to adverse political conditions in French Wadai, the expedition covered considerable ground by dividing itself into branch expeditions whose combined routes amount to 8,078 miles of travel. Starting at the mouth of the Congo the main expedition went to Kinshassa on Stanley Pool, where the botanist Dr. Mildbraed and the entomologist Dr. Schultze were detached for a trip into southern Kamerun. The rest of the main party proceeded up the Congo and Shari rivers to Lake Chad, remaining there some time to study the shores and especially the little known islands of the lake. Then the ethnologist Lieut. Von Wiese and the zoölogist Dr. Schubotz separated from the party to try the crossing of the continent in a more southerly direction, the former succeeding along the courses of the Ubangi and Mbomu rivers, the latter along the Welle, to the Bahr-el-Ghazal and the Bahr-el-Gebel rivers, respectively. The rest of the main expedition, consisting of the Duke, the physician Dr. Haberer, and the painter Mr. Heims, separated temporarily in their turn: the first two penetrated into Bagirmi as far as Melfi, returning through *terra incognita* via Busso (on the Shari) and Bongor (on the Logone) to Garua on the Benue, where they were again joined by Heims who had in the meantime explored the Musgum country in the German part of Bornu. From there they went down the Benue and Niger to embark for home at the rising port of Forcados, Niger Delta. The two gentlemen of the Kamerun expedition made an additional trip to the islands of Fernando Po and Annobon.

This division of labor naturally makes the reports somewhat unlike in character, because each scientist reports on the territory visited by him from his special scientific point of view. The reports, with the possible exception of the South Kamerun branch, do not therefore give truly all-round geographical pictures of their respective territories. But even so they contain much new information of high geographical value on the parts of Africa visited.

The South Kamerun expedition gave much attention to the topography of the country. It was ascertained to be a peneplain sloping gently toward the Sanga River and not exceeding 900 meters in height, which is below earlier suppositions. Only its western parts show a greater variety of relief and a greater height of individual peaks. Zoölogically the region belongs to the Congo province, the transition to the coastal fauna being very gradual. The entomological discoveries were gratifying. The flora showed several distinct provinces which seemed to correspond to political (ethnological?) divisions. It is a pity that, especially near the leading roads, the original condition of the vegetation is fast disappearing, so that a scientific study of it will soon be impossible.